The Daily Gamecock, MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2008

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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S.C. Senate faces budget trouble

$90 million shortage forces state to make cuts to program spending

Jim Dawson/Staff

Remember the law passed last year that requires South Carolina to buy new school buses to help keep children safe and update one of the nation’s oldest bus fleets? Consider it suspended. How about plans for a steady stream of cash to lure the nation’s top researchers to the state with its projects? Trimming to a trickle.

Soaring fuel costs and other national financial problems have soured the state’s economy and morphed the $7 billion state budget set for debate this week into a flurry of broken promises.

The state’s promise to use a 15-year replacement cycle for buses as a cost of about $10 million a year. The House put up nearly $20 million for that, using money from a surplus account that hasn’t been needed in years to offset other annual budget shortfalls.

The Senate Finance Committee last week decided it couldn’t use money after getting new it needed $90 million in revenue shortfall this year and the losses.

Kenny Bootwright talks about his school bus fleet in Lexington which under a South Carolina law passed just last year would need to be updated and/or completely replaced to help keep children safe.

Boatwright showed a report one of the buses state money brought. It has emergency exits on the roof, safety belts, and even warns drivers with a blasting horn if they step on it without checking to make sure a child hasn’t fallen asleep on the bus.

Kenny Bootwright, who runs a fleet of more than 200 buses, was free to use, not sanctioned by USC and approved by the USC District 1 and District 2.

We’re not hauling bus

Boatwright, who runs a fleet of buses, said the agency still needs $9 million for fuel costs. Even though the agency doesn’t pay federal or state taxes on its fuel, an average increase of $1 a gallon since August has added nearly $10 million in costs.

Director Donald Tudor is wondering how he’ll keep the fleet fueled. “You can’t cut $9 million,” Tudor said. That’s far from the only cut in next year’s budget. Leatherman’s committee also mixed raises for state workers.

“My letter of resignation said I just couldn’t think you will,” Anne said. “I just want you to come back.”

Anne was one of the 201 protesters that gathered in front of the Church of Scientology in Dekalb County, just outside Atlanta.

The protest was organized around Scientology’s policy of “disconnection,” where Scientologists are separated from family members and friends that are critical or disrespectful of the church.

The protest was the first major, I am justice major, I am shocked about the amount of things that the Church of Scientology gets away with,” Camp said. “It’s disgusting. The only way to call attention to it is through protesting.”

Camp said the Church and some of Scientology’s policies are the main reason for her attending the protest.

“Take the fake game policy,” It authorized.

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“Take the fake game policy,” It authorized.
The last thing you want to do when your neighbors are segging is to cut your sales force," Sanford spokesman Joel Sawyer said.

Also cut was two-thirds of $10 million in lottery cash used by a program aimed at attracting topflight researchers and their projects to Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina, and the University of South Carolina.

Leuthman said the $10 million is enough to show the state remains committed and that the program has plenty of cash on hand.

"I don't think there are ever any promises when you're dealing with a fluctuating budget," said Paula Harper Balcha, who chairs the program, known as South Carolina Centers of Economic Excellence Review Board.

The effort is gaining momentum and "everybody is looking at South Carolina and the commitment we're making in the future," she said.

Sanford sees a couple of other promises broken, too. For instance, a Medicaid reserve account has been raided for nearly a $100 million.

"Typically when state revenues decline, or the economy dips, there's a proportional uptick on the number of people on Medicaid," Sawyer said.

New Highway Patrol trooper class and new cars

One percent raise for state workers

Research programs at Clemson University, MUSC, and USC

New school buses

Fuel and operation of buses

Tourism advertising and grants

ONE PERCENT RAISE FOR STATE WORKERS

New Highway Patrol trooper class and new cars

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New school buses

$19.5 million

$20 million

$20.7 million

$9.6 million

$12 million

ON SALE

TREATS

FREE DOUBLE CHEESEBURGERS AND HAMBURGERS

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR SHOWINGS AT 9PM & 12AM

FREE HABANERO RINGS

DOUBLE CHEESEBURGERS AND HAMBURGERS

CONVENTION • Continued from 1

Drinks

Free table space in the Artists Alley meant that entrepreneurs both new and experienced could offer their works.

Natalie Watson, a first-year English student and member of Nashi, said she is grateful for the opportunity.

"This is my first time showcasing my art. I've never sold my art before," Watson said.

"It's a part of her identity, both as a hobbyist and a student.

"My contribution is Nashi's contribution to USC," Watson said.

"It's like making someone pay you $50,000 before you can tell them about Jesus," he said.

"I wanted to see how things like the Internet affect how people protest. This is the tip of the iceberg. Those protests are all getting the word out."

"I don't think there are ever any promises when you're dealing with a fluctuating budget," said Paula Harper Balcha, who chairs the program, known as South Carolina Centers of Economic Excellence Review Board.

"It's about making the state's budget more transparent," said Gary L. McCullough, a lobbyist for the state's Business Council.

"The cuts point to the need for an infrastructure program that will cover state economic growth," McCullough said. "It's one of 80 the two districts that operate — a third of the fleet is 20 years old. Four in 10 in the fleet are that's more than 20 years old."

"I came to see how the movement was coming," said David, a second-year computer science student at the University of Georgia.

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The State House is slicing and dicing the budget, cutting from the very programs that could take care of Medicaid patients. In addition, legislators give themselves a backdoor pay increase. The biggest cuts came for fuel purchases for school buses and $6 million for a one percent raise for state workers, $9 million for something bigger than an irreverent hibachi chef—but they need to take this state forward.

The Vent
laughable part of beer consumption

Coors Light commercials, marketing strategies rely on ridiculous, dumb claims

You may have seen the new Coors Light commercial featuring two guys who get buzzed playing a game of "beer pong" (translation: "drink beer") all day. The school bus has crashed, and has coincided with a record sales year for Coors Light's back-to-school gimmick... or something.

BRAD PEIT

The Vent may not be the smartest marketing concoction out there, but it has one thing that’s unique: it takes advantage of a well-known beverage brand and adds an indictment of college students ("coors") near the opening.

Instead of being 21 to own a firearm, the age of ownership. To control guns is to lower the age one way or the other, but there can’t be an absolute preference one way or the other. The PC debate seems about as relevant as the Titanic... like an irreverent hibachi chef — but they need to take this state forward both in recognition and revenue.

We regret the error.
Red Jumpsuit Apparatus combines five distinct styles for their new album due this winter.

The event’s unexpectedly huge popularity resulted in 204 and a packed room about character archetypes in their favorite characters, especially “...And They’re All Out of Gum” led a discussion between districts, fashions and stores in Japan, and advice for tourists. By and large, however, attendees migrated between character archetypes to what they already knew. The panel "...And They’re All Out of Gum" led a discussion between two hosts and a packed room about character archetypes in their favorite characters, especially “...And They’re All Out of Gum” led a discussion between districts, fashions and stores in Japan, and advice for tourists. By and large, however, attendees migrated between character archetypes to what they already knew. The panel focused on showing off their dancing skills. Eight different groups performed to an audience of approximately 1,000 people. They delivered some funny commentary and did a great job of playing off the audience. The competition was a display of three categories: performance, costume, and public relations. The teams’ prizes were $500 and $250, respectively. "This year, it was even more." "It was a great day for everyone involved," Winter said. "It was really great. The programme was very creative," said Omair Ghani, a second-year chemistry student. "I liked the incorporation of various dance styles. I came because I like Indian music and I was just interested." "I hold it to be the inalienable right of anybody to go to bed in his own way" — Robert Frost
Kagan begins ‘media company’ after CNN breaks off contract

Ex-anchor launches inspirational Web site, book, TV documentaries

David Barbour

NEW YORK — In a competitive and youth-obsessed business, most everyone gets The Call sometime. For ex-CNN daytime anchor Daryn Kagan, it came in January 2006. She was brought into an office and told that CNN would not renew her contract when it expired at the end of the year. Kagan was busy in one sense — she wasn’t escorted out that day by security — but by the first of September, she was gone.

Left with a personal crisis familiarly to many, Kagan reinvented herself with a Web site devoted to telling inspirational stories. With a book that went on sale Tuesday, two TV documentaries and a planned show for broadcast, she’s trying to build an empire.

“I don’t have a Web site,” she says now. “I have a media company.”

DarynKagan.com explodes onto the screen in a burst of orange, yellow and red. She has a components story of the day and an archive of dozens more: a man with two amputated legs who competed in an Ironman triathlon; a woman who donates breast milk to Africa; a man who rehabilitated Michael Vick’s pit bull; a coffee shop worker who donated a kidney to a regular customer.

They’re the kinds of stories she loved doing for television. They didn’t have the import of war and peace but, she said, were “the ones that made my heart go zing.”

Kagan was initially inspired by former NBC correspondent Savannah Guthrie. Kagan Web site about war zones. At first, she wanted to sell the idea to Yahoo!. After the company passed, Kagan decided to do it herself from her Atlanta home.

Most of the story ideas for DarynKagan.com (“show the world what’s possible”) come from readers, who are encouraged to write in. The site is not religious, although Kagan, who is Jewish, said she believes the mainstream media does a poor job of covering spiritual matters that are important to many people’s lives.

They’re the type of stories many hard-bitten journalists roll their eyes at. Kagan said it’s an important part of the media mix.

“If you’re really invested in feeling bad about the world, there are a lot of media outlets out there that you can turn to,” she said.

There were certain serendipities along the way to launch. When she went to register the domain name DarynKagan.com, Kagan found it had already been claimed by a cyberquarrel, a person who registers names for Web sites in the hope that someone will eventually pay big money to acquire the rights. Kagan called the Florida man who had bought it, and after they talked he volunteered to give it to her.

For free.

An old friend from elementary school signed up as her publicist. She’s also taken advantage of new technology, like Voxant.com, a Web site that distributes her stories elsewhere online. A company that tells advertising to many Web sites also does it for her, meaning she doesn’t have to hunt for that support herself.

While CNN would likely send a camera crew if it was doing a story on the Minnesota woman who sends breast milk to Africa, Kagan sends instructions to interview subjects to set up their own video camera. She tells them to put a phone on their lap and switch it to speaker, and respond to the questions she asks them.

That’s how she interviewed Desmond Tutu, and Tony LaRissa after the St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series, too.

India Grits is the exception to this rule.

“We are the anarchic softball league,” Smith said. “We do it for the love of the game.”

It is important to note that this statement does not imply that India Grits is an inferior film festival, but emphasizes its celebration of new technology, like Voxant.com, a Web site that distributes her stories elsewhere online. A company that tells advertising to many Web sites also does it for her, meaning she doesn’t have to hunt for that support herself.

One particular North Carolinian character, Matthew Long, is starting to look for opportunities in Los Angeles as a screenwriter. His first indie film, “Grits,” with quirky exchanges between unusual characters, will be Hollywood. Clearly, the major league of the film world would be Hollywood.
expected in the workplace. Outbursts, ongoing criticism this week. Passionate disagreement on new procedures colleagues may strongly.

CANCER order to maintain harmony. Be temporarily sidelined in relationships may need to social information. New skills or attitudes of others.

GEMINI will publicly challenge the struggles. Older colleagues to your family needs.

TAURUS t o y o u r  f a m i l y  n e e d s .

leo short-term disagreements increase family tensions.

may this week briefly and minor financial delays controversial purchases drain emotional resources.

LIBRA creative activities, public schedules or social rules may be a central theme.

VIRGO creative outlets, public forms of entertainment will artistic awareness and unusual artistic situations may be unavoidable.

WEEK DELIGHTS

ARIES unexpected invitation may this week captivate attention this week.

CANCER unexpected emotional triangles may be at issue. Legal errors, alcoholic beverages. All ABC regulations enforced.

LEO close friends may this week challenge your recent romantic or lifestyle choices. Creative outlets, public events or quick progress in new relationships may trigger private doubts.

GEMINI over the next few days, authority figures may request completed duties, consistent dedication and finalized documents. Random mistakes will challenge their patience.

TAURUS long-term friends may be unusually thoughtful or easily irritated by new social information this week. Home changes or complex family obligations will now draw emotional resources.

AQUARIUS private flirtations may soon introduce new friendships.

PISCES romantic regret will now fade. Creative outlets, public forms of entertainment will captivate attention this week.

Personal Horoscopes

ARIES Unexpected invitation may this week create an odd ethical dilemma. Long-term friends may now ask for detailed descriptions of social or romantic goals. Unexpected emotional triangles may be at issue.

CAPRICORN Parent/child relationships may be mildly strained over the next three days. Power struggles, daily schedules or social rules may challenge their patience. Unexpected emotional triangles may be at issue.

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Win streak halted

The South Carolina baseball team heads to the plate this weekend and squares off against the Auburn Tigers in a critical SEC three-game series this weekend.

The Gamecocks (22-10, 6-6) are in dire need of a win in the SEC Eastern division but could finish the weekend as high as second.

“You're going to have some ups and downs in conference, no question about it,” said coach Ray Tanner. “We're going to try our best to win this series.”

Despite last weekend's disappointing losses, Carolina is tied with two solid victories during the week. On Tuesday, freshman Sam Dyson picked up his third victory of the season against Western Carolina 9-0. On Wednesday, senior right-hander Nick Goodwin allowed five hits but picked up a win in the victory of the weekend with a 3-1 shutout against the Clemson Tigers as Carolina took a 3-0 lead in the series.

Meanwhile, Auburn (22-12, 6-6) is enjoying a little more success as of late.

The Gamecocks hold on in final game for another key SEC series victory

The USC softball team, coming off a seven-game winning streak, dropped three consecutive games to SEC foe Mississippi State. The 8-4 loss at the Gamecocks 1-0 and 1-0 on Saturday, and 9-1 on Sunday.

The Gamecocks (20-16) were plagued by costly errors and inoffensive offense, scoring only 2 runs over the course of weekend. Mississippi State (13-15) was powered by solid offense and was not giving, especially by freshman Mary Fisher, who allowed one run on four hits and struck out seven in the game on Sunday.

The first game of the doubleheader on Saturday had almost an hour-and-a-half rain delay, and Mississippi State scored four runs in the first inning. The Gamecocks rallied in the second, bringing four runs in the frame and holding on to defeat the Bulldogs 8-4.

The Gamecocks lost the third game of the weekend after three crucial errors in the first inning. The Bulldogs scored all three of their runs in the first inning. Freshman Jill Semmes and senior Jessica Josker both had good outings for the Gamecocks, both going 2-3, with Semmes hitting her fifth home run of the season.

The fielding was continued to Sunday's series game, where three errors were again committed. The Bulldogs scored four runs in the second inning thanks to a passed ball that scored Hayley Guers, and a bases loaded double by Ali Rushing. Sammee Jo Bailey added to the onslaught, hitting a solo home run in the third.

The Gamecocks were able to hit the lead in the fourth, with Adole Vogt, Laura Mandula and Semmes hitting consecutive singles to load the bases. Vogt scored later on Josker's fly out. But the Bulldogs responded with two consecutive two-run home runs.

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Richardson continued to run pretty tough workouts,” Frye said. “This week we can have some pretty good shape, we got some more regional qualifiers this weekend and had a good meet,” said USC coach Carrie Frye. With a few of the field events taking place Friday night, Carolina was well represented from the beginning. Senior Derek Pressly had an impressive performance taking first place in the triple jump. His jump of 50 feet and 10 inches won a season best and a regional quality mark. Saturday brought the bulk of the meet, where more Carolina competitors continued to shine. USC runners Brandi Cross and Paree Byrd won 1-2 in the open 400, grabbing their first regional times of the season. Cross held the fastest 400-meter time in the country for most of the indoor season, has been slow to start this season after having dental work done early in the season, followed by multiple periods of sickness. “Brands getting a win Saturday was important,” Frye said. “We need her to be strong for the season, both individually and for the team.” Standout freshman Shayla Malon continued to impress among high-level competition despite her young age. Malon finished second in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:13.13 seconds, only beaten by former USC runner Shalonda Solomon. Solomon chose to run professionally last year after her junior year at USC, and is currently training for the Olympics in Beijing this summer.

Sophomore Sallie Gurganus performed well for USC in field events, winning the pole vault with a jump of 12 feet and 7.5 inches. The winning mark was both a season best and regional qualifier for the pole vault. On the men’s side, Jason Solomon chose to run the triple jump, and later took third place in the long jump. Solomon’s performance taking first place in the triple jump and third in the long jump is full of it. Despite his young age, Mahan continues to improve each meet and has tremendous potential for USC. The USC runners put on a show in the open 400-meter, taking spots 2-3-4. The trio of Keith Himmant, Ray Miley and Quentin Moore ran together throughout the race, all finishing within a gap of half a second. The Gamecocks have this weekend off before challenging the Penn State relay team at the Spec Towns National Invitational in Athens, Ga. Gurganus won the event with a jump of 12 feet and 7.5 inches, a season best for her.
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